Subject: CCA Reflects: Working Together to End Homelessness - February 2018
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CCA Reflects is a monthly series where we share our insights on what is happening in DTLA and the region.

Working Together to End Homelessness

We all know that our region is in a homelessness crisis, an issue which clearly shows that we are struggling to meet our collective moral, health, political and economic responsibilities. It is a complex problem that intersects with housing affordability, mental illness, addiction and the criminal justice system. Ending homelessness is the most important challenge we face, and we are pleased to see the breadth of media coverage in the last few months underscoring the need to solve the growing crisis.

The results of the annual Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count will be coming out soon and will likely show a further growth in our homelessness population. And we are eager for results from Loyola Marymount University's annual poll called Forecast LA to see how the public feels about the future of our city.

Homelessness is truly a complicated issue that crosses Department lines, jurisdictions and leadership. That's why United Way's *Everyone In* campaign, which is powered by a diverse coalition, is so important. We are hopeful about the recent action by Councilmembers who committed to backing supportive housing for homeless people in their districts. We are also encouraged by Assembly Bill 3171, a $1.5 billion state funding request to help California's homeless population, and by the recent Proposition HHH project approvals which will fund over 600 units of new supportive housing throughout the city.

At CCA, we have been regularly convening a broad group of thought leaders and finding ways to collaborate. There are numerous people and organizations who are doing great work on this issue, and we have been supporting that work while also leading in other areas. As an organization, we also realize that Downtown faces unique challenges in addressing this crisis and believe that Skid Row should be our barometer for how we measure progress on ending homelessness.

We are working closely with many stakeholders to track progress and hold our institutions and leaders accountable. We want to make sure goals on the number of units built and reduction of the unsheltered homeless population are met. And we want to help policy makers meet these goals. For example, voters approved Proposition HHH, a $1.2 billion bond to build 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing every year for 10 years. At the end of last year, the City didn't come close to meeting that goal in large part due to the complicated approval process for housing projects of all types, and especially supportive housing developments. That's why we are advocating for the passage of the Permanent Supportive Housing and Interim Motel Conversion ordinances which will help streamline the approval process.

We also need to figure out innovative ways to build housing at both new and existing sites across the region. We are using our members' expertise in site identification, planning, and acquisition, and will partner with organizations to develop both supportive and interim housing.

We must also continue to build community in Downtown to make sure it is a safe and welcoming place for all. As many of you may have seen, a recent NBC story illustrated how the homeless population is often the first victim of crime in areas like Skid Row of Downtown. We need solutions to improve public safety and build a

safer Dow ntow n community. CCA has an excellent partnership w ith LAPD's Central Division and w e support all of the w ork they do. We also recognize the challenges they face w ith policing Dow ntow n, a place w ith a concentrated and unsheltered homeless population.

The City of LA w ill be hiring a new Chief of Police this year, and w e are hopeful the next Chief w ill be an active partner in addressing this complex issue. The next Chief must w ork across sectors and Department lines, and also have experience w ith policing a vertical community w here public transit, w alking and biking are the key modes of transportation. We encourage our members to w eigh in on the recruitment of the next Chief. You can submit your feedback on this survey, submit a letter to City Hall or attend a Police Commission meeting.

We look forw ard to w orking together on ending this crisis.

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Central City Association of Los Angeles

Enhancing DTLA's vibrancy and increasing investment in the region

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